



EAGLE

April 2022
EAGLE Network

Wildlife Law Enforcement Briefing

- ✓ *24 traffickers arrested in 6 countries*
- ✓ *A trafficker arrested with 328 kg of pangolin scales in Côte d'Ivoire. A hit on an important trafficking network that had previously been targeted by law enforcement*
- ✓ *8 traffickers arrested with 476 kg pangolin scales in two crackdown operations on a pangolin scales trafficking network in Cameroon*
- ✓ *5 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 6 elephant tusks, 3 leopard skins, an elephant tail and 5 leopard teeth in two operations*
- ✓ *4 traffickers arrested in Burkina Faso with an elephant tusk and several carved ivory items, an elephant tail and 8 pieces of elephant hide, a hippo skull and teeth, 8 crocodile skins and more*
- ✓ *3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and 3 aardvark feet in Senegal*
- ✓ *EAGLE Senegal and the General Directorate of the National Police of Senegal signed a partnership agreement to fight wildlife crime in the country*



A trafficker arrested with 328 kg of pangolin scales in Côte d'Ivoire.



4 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 4 elephant tusks, 3 leopard skins, an elephant tail and 5 leopard teeth.

Summary

A trafficker arrested with 328 kg of pangolin scales in Côte d'Ivoire. He is "The Money Man" financing the illicit operations of an organized criminal ring that had already been attacked twice in the past years by EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team. One of the operations took place in 2017 when 3 tons of pangolin scales were seized. They are a very closed and cautious ring. It took huge efforts to net this key player of the network. A large cash amount was found at his home during a house search.

3 traffickers arrested with 386 kg pangolin scales in a crackdown on a pangolin scales trafficking network in Cameroon. The traffickers, a Malian national and two Cameroonians, ran a lucrative illicit business in pangolin scales. They operated from an area in Centrale Cameroon that is notorious for wildlife trafficking and weak law enforcement. They also had connections close to the Cameroon border with the Central African Republic where the Malian had hidden huge quantities of pangolins scales.

4 traffickers arrested in Gabon with 4 elephant tusks, 3 leopard skins, an elephant tail and 5 leopard teeth. A worker with the public works department and a high school student were arrested during their attempt to sell the contraband in Oyem, a town in northern Gabon. The worker denounced a third trafficker who was arrested at his home and a house search done. Several 375 rifle bullets were found during the search. He also denounced 2 other traffickers who were arrested. One of them is the father of the high school student. He shot and killed an elephant from which he extracted a pair of tusks and the tail.

5 traffickers arrested with 90 kg of pangolin scales in a crackdown on a trafficking network in Cameroon. The traffickers were found in several different locations. They attempted to thwart arrest efforts by taking up different locations.

4 traffickers arrested in Burkina Faso with an elephant tusk and several carved ivory items, an elephant tail and 8 pieces of elephant hide, a hippo skull and teeth, 8 crocodile skins and more. The first trafficker was arrested with the contraband which he transported in a three-wheeler motorcycle. He denounced the other traffickers who were arrested.

3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and 3 Aardvark feet in Senegal. The trafficking ring has been active for two decades, generating the killings of big cats in the east of the country and in the Niokolo-Koba national park.

A trafficker arrested with 2 gorilla skulls, a chimp skull and 5 other primate skulls in Cameroon. He was a regular trafficker in skulls and reptiles with international connections in Europe. He extensively used Facebook for his business.

A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks in Gabon. The trafficker, a Beninese national, was arrested as he attempted to sell the ivory.

A trafficker arrested and a mandrill rescued in Cameroon. The mandrill was tied at the waist with a heavy metal chain to a tree in his dirty yard. The trafficker was supplied with the mandrill a few months before and was trying to get a high profit for it.

A convicted trafficker who was on the run arrested. He was given bail during his trial back in May 2021 and went into hiding. A few months later, he was sentenced to serve 18 months in prison. He was chased down and arrested to complete his sentence.



3 traffickers arrested with 386 kg pangolin scales in a crackdown on a pangolin scales trafficking network in Cameroon.

Cameroon – LAGA

■ A trafficker arrested with 2 gorilla skulls, a chimp skull and 5 other primate skulls. He was a regular trafficker in skulls and reptiles with international connections in Europe. He extensively used Facebook for his business. He sealed the skulls with plastic tapes and concealed them inside dresses in a plastic bag that is widely used in travelling across the region. He travelled from the crisis hit Anglophone part of the country to the commer-

cial capital Douala where he attempted to sell the skulls. The operation was carried in collaboration with the Czech-based NGO Save Elephants.



3 traffickers arrested with 386 kg pangolin scales. ↑

5 traffickers arrested with 90 kg of pangolin scales in a crackdown on a trafficking network. ↓ →





A trafficker arrested and a mandrill rescued.

- A trafficker arrested and a mandrill rescued. The mandrill was tied at the waist with a heavy metal chain to a tree in his dirty yard. The trafficker was supplied with the mandrill a few months before and was trying to get a high profit for it. The animal was malnourished and weak.
- 5 traffickers arrested with 90 kg of pangolin scales in a crackdown on a trafficking network. The traffickers were found in several different locations. They attempted to thwart arrest efforts by taking up different locations. They were chased down by the arresting team and each trafficker arrested with booty in hand. They also comprised a complete gang with a driver, middlemen and suppliers.
- 3 traffickers arrested with 386 kg pangolin scales. The traffickers, a Malian national and two Cameroonians, ran a lucrative illicit business in pangolin scales. They operated from an area in Centrale Cameroon that is notorious for wildlife trafficking and weak law enforcement. They also had connections close to the Cameroon border with the Central African Republic where the Malian had hidden huge quantities of pangolins scales. He transported the contraband from a town near the border, concealed in a truck that transported maize to the capital city Yaounde. When he arrived, they hid the contraband at the home of one of the traffickers. They also trafficked African grey parrots but were switching to other products. They claimed it was increasingly difficult to find parrots.
- The Deputy Director travelled to Abidjan where



A trafficker arrested with 2 gorilla skulls, a chimp skull and 5 other primate skulls

he participated at workshop that focused on illicit economies and conflict in West Africa. Organized by Global Initiative Against Transnational Crime (GI TOC), participants were drawn mainly from areas linked to the fight against organized crime in the sub region.

- He held a meeting with the Dan Chandler and Matt Shirley from the IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group to discuss the fight against pangolin scales trafficking and the management of seized scales in Cameroon.

- The Legal Team held several meetings with State Counsels to discuss ongoing wildlife cases at their respective jurisdictions.

Republic of Congo – PALF

- A convicted trafficker who was on the run arrested. He was given bail during his trial back in May 2021 and went into hiding. A few months later, he was sentenced to serve 18 months in prison. He was chased down and arrested to complete his sentence. The mission to arrest him again was extremely important to show that traffickers cannot avoid justice and will not benefit from impunity. The project and the authorities are working hard to ensure traffickers serve their sentences. He was first arrested with a leopard skin and ivory.
- 2 traffickers were sentenced to 5 years in prison. They were arrested by the police last year for killing chimpanzees and elephants. The project provided legal assistance during their prosecution.
- The Coordinator accompanied by the General Director of the Ministry of Forestry Economy, the Coordinator of the Aspinall Foundation and a veterinarian from the Jane Goodall Institute, went on a 3-day fact finding mission to Lésio Louna that focused on wildlife trafficking in the region.
- The Coordinator held meetings with WWF delegations from France, Netherlands and Cameroon during a mission to the north of Congo to discuss wildlife trafficking and strengthen collaboration. She was accompanied by the ETIC (Espace TRI-DOM Interzone Congo) Manager



- The recruitment of legal advisers and investigators was intensified.

Gabon – AALF

- 4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks, 3 leopard skins, an elephant tail and 5 leopard teeth. A worker with the public works department and a high school student were arrested during their attempt to sell the contraband in Oyem, a town in northern Gabon. The worker denounced a third trafficker who was arrested at his home and a house search done. Several 375 rifle bullets were found during the search. He also denounced 2

other traffickers who were arrested. One of them is the father of the high school student. He shot and killed an elephant from which he extracted a pair of tusks and the tail. A house search found rifle bullets at his home some 34km from Oyem. He also led the arresting team to the carcass of the elephant he killed 6 months ago. The second is a teacher who admitted to owning 2 tusks. The products were found in two travelling bags that

were concealed inside a vehicle that was driven by the student. Charges were not brought against the student.

- A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks. The trafficker, a Beninese national, was arrested as he attempted to sell the ivory. He arrived at the place of the transaction in a taxi carrying a backpack that concealed the tusks.
- The project provided legal and logistical assistance to wildlife officials after the arrest of 3 traffickers with 3 elephant tusks. One of the traffickers is a Chinese national and team leader in a Libreville-based Chinese company.



A trafficker arrested with 2 elephant tusks.

- The project provided legal



4 traffickers arrested with 4 elephant tusks, 3 leopard skins, an elephant tail and 5 leopard teeth.

- assistance in the prosecution of 2 traffickers, who were arrested by Directorate of General Research (DGR) with 2 elephant tusks. The project also provided logistical assistance for the transfer of the traffickers to be presented to a State Council in Libreville.
- The project provided legal and logistical assistance to wildlife officials after the arrest of 3 traffickers with 4 elephant tusks.
 - One of the traffickers is a Chinese national and team leader in a Libreville-based Chinese com-

pany

- A trafficker was sentenced to one year in prison. He was arrested in February 2022 with 2 elephant tusks.
- The Activities Coordinator met with the Director of the National Gendarmerie School to discuss the organization of trainings for student officers.
- A legal adviser, assisted by the Activities Coordinator, facilitated a workshop that focused on the role played by Conservation Justice in fighting wildlife crime. The workshop brought together 25 trainee officers from all branches of the gendarmerie. It served as a prelude to a workshop for cadet officers to be organized in the coming months
- Several meetings were held by the legal advisers with police, judicial and wildlife officials to strengthen collaboration and to follow up ongoing wildlife cases. Meetings were held with some Antenna Heads of the DGR, the Judicial Police, Provincial Directors of Water and Forests and some State Counsels.

Togo – EAGLE Togo

- The Assistant Coordinator and the legal advisor held a meeting with the Director of the Inspectorate of Forest Resources (IRF) to strengthen collaboration in the fight against environmental crime.
- The Assistant Coordinator held a meeting with the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) Focal Point to discuss the ETIS data collection procedures and strengthen collaboration.

Senegal – EAGLE Senegal

- 3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and 3 aardvark feet. The trafficking ring has been active for two decades, generating the killings of big cats in the east of the country and in the Niokolo-Koba national park. Two of the traffickers transported the contraband in a vehicle belonging to one of them. They concealed the leopard skins in a grain bag and the aardvark feet in a school bag. A fourth trafficker was arrested by the gendarmerie



3 traffickers arrested with 2 leopard skins and 3 aardvark feet.

24 hours later. The arresting team persisted in getting the traffickers arrested despite several challenges.

- EAGLE Senegal and the General Directorate of the National Police of Senegal signed a partner-

ship agreement to fight wildlife crime in the country.

- The Legal Team followed up the various pending issues with MoUs with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the General Directorate of Customs where meetings were held.



EAGLE Senegal and the General Directorate of the National Police of Senegal signed a partnership agreement



Côte d'Ivoire – EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire

- A trafficker arrested with 328 kg of pangolin scales. He is “The Money Man” financing the illicit operations of an organized criminal ring that had already been attacked twice in the past years by EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire team. One of the operations took place in 2017 when 3 tons of pangolin scales were seized. They are a very closed and cautious ring. It took huge efforts to net this key player of the network. A large cash amount was found at his home during a house search. This seizure, a snapshot of the ongoing regular illegal trade of this gang, represents a maximum of around 2,000 killed pangolins. The traffickers use remoted villages in the country to conceal tons of scales.



- The Coordinator and a legal advisor participated at workshop that focused on illicit economies and conflict in West Africa. Organized by GI TOC, par-

ticipants were from the West and Central Africa sub regions.

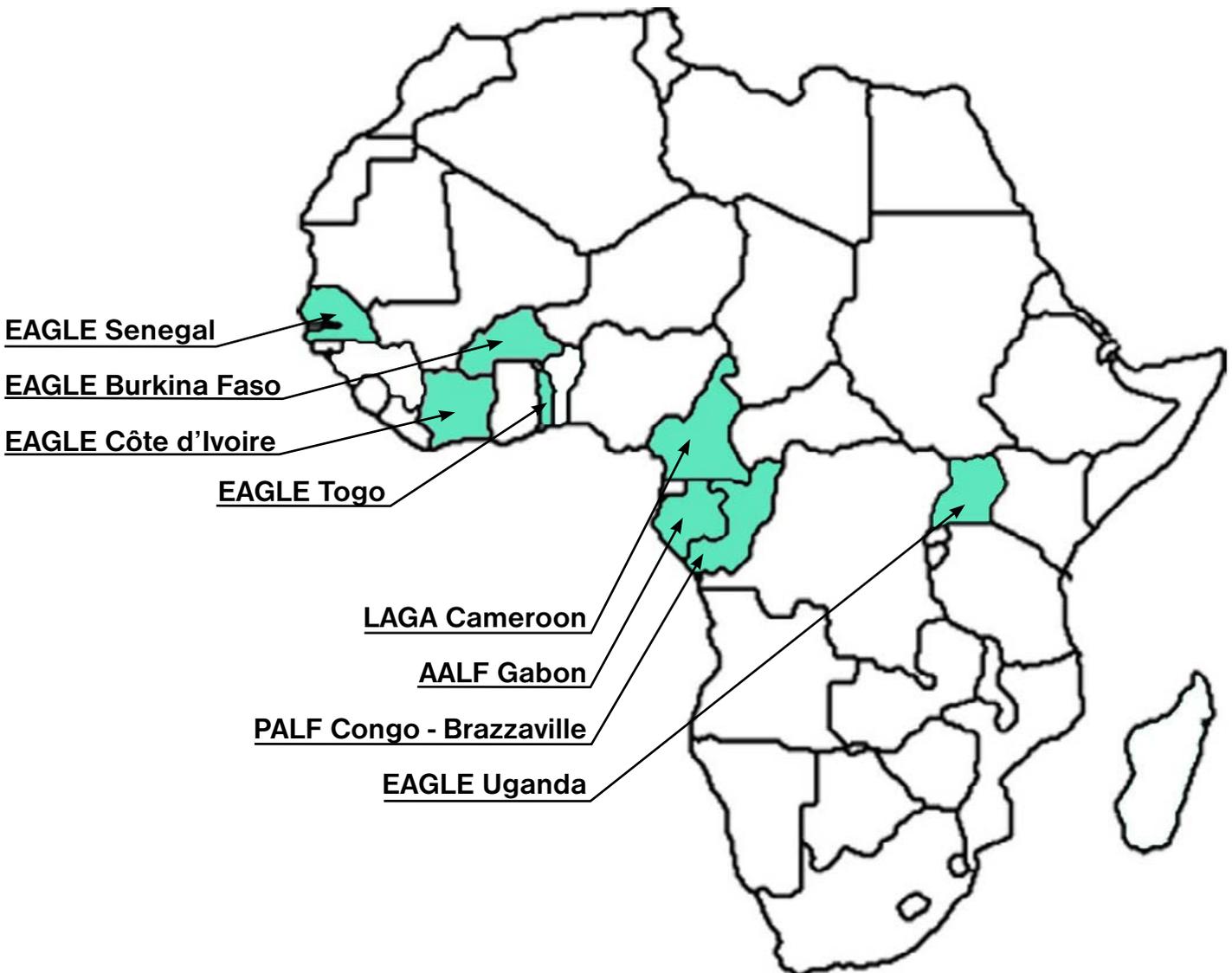
- The Coordinator held meetings with the UCT to advance on long term investigations and prepare for operations.

Burkina Faso - EAGLE Burkina Faso

- 4 traffickers arrested with an elephant tusk and several carved ivory items, an elephant tail and 8 pieces of elephant hide, a hippo skull and teeth, 8 crocodile skins and more. The first trafficker was arrested with the contraband which he transported in a three-wheeler motorcycle. He denounced the other traffickers who were arrested. They had been in the illegal business for a long time and this runs through the family, from father to son. 3 of the traffickers are brothers.
- The Coordinator and a legal adviser discussed with the Director of Wildlife and Hunting Resources on the online completion of the Elephant Trade and Information System (ETIS) form.
- The Coordinator and a legal adviser, assisted students on the setting up of a wildlife crime unit within the framework of the PONASI project.



Structure of the EAGLE Network



THE EAGLE Network

EAGLE: Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement, is a network of members across Africa, who are replicating effectively a program and operational model to undertake wildlife law enforcement, which is based on the LAGA-Cameroon model, trailed, practiced and tested since 2003. The EAGLE Network currently operates in nine African countries and keeps expanding.

The over-arching objective of the EAGLE Network is: *Developing civic activism and collaborating with governments and civil society to improve the application of national and international environmental legislation, through a program of activities: investigations, arrests, prosecutions and publicity. Through this, EAGLE aims to generate a strong deterrent against the illegal*

trade in wildlife, timber and related criminal activities, including corruption.

Contacts:

1. Cameroon – LAGA - ofir@eagle-enforcement.org
2. Congo – PALF – tiffany@eagle-enforcement.org
3. Gabon – AALF – luc@eagle-enforcement.org
4. Togo – EAGLE Togo – rens@eagle-enforcement.org
5. Senegal – EAGLE Senegal - cebloch@eagle-enforcement.org
6. Côte d'Ivoire - gaspard@eagle-enforcement.org
7. Burkina Faso - josias@eagle-enforcement.org
8. Uganda – EAGLE Uganda - ofir@eagle-enforcement.org